

# Proposed General Plan Update Goals, Policies, and Implementation Actions



## Energy

San José will conserve energy, reduce energy consumption per capita, and adopt renewable energy technologies so that, as the City develops, the City's total Carbon Footprint remains the same or is reduced. All of San José residents and businesses will have access to clean, renewable, affordable, and reliable energy (i.e., energy security).

### **Reduce Consumption and Increase Efficiency**

**Goal E-1** Reduce per capita energy consumption by at least 50% compared to 2008 levels by 2022 and maintain or reduce net aggregate energy consumption levels equivalent to the 2022 (Green Vision) level through 2040.

### **E-1 Energy Efficiency Policies**

**Policy E-1.1** Promote job and housing growth in areas served by public transit and that have community amenities within a 20-minute walking distance.

**Policy E-1.2** Enhance existing neighborhoods by adding a mix of uses that facilitate biking, walking, or transit ridership through improved access to shopping, employment, community services, and gathering places.

**Policy E-1.3** Consistent with the California Public Utilities Commission's California Long Term Energy Efficiency Strategic Plan, require all new residential construction to be designed for zero net energy use by 2020 and all new commercial construction to be designed for zero net energy use by 2030.

**Policy E.1.4** Require third-party-verified Carbon Footprint projections associated with construction and operation of new development during design review of development applications and as a prerequisite for any funding incentives.

**Policy E-1.5** Implement the City's Green Building Policies (see Green Building Section) so that new and existing construction fully implements industry best practices, including the use of optimized energy systems, selection of materials and resources, water efficiency, sustainable site selection, and passive solar building design.

**Policy E-1.6** Consistent with State and Federal policies and best practices, require energy efficiency audits and retrofits prior to or at the same time as consideration of solar electric improvements.

### **E-1 Energy Efficiency Actions**

- Action E-1.7      Replace 100% of the City's traffic signals and streetlights with smart, zero emission lighting by 2022.
- Action E-1.8      Require full costing analysis of energy-related carbon emissions as part of the discretionary review process for new development and renovation projects.
- Action E-1.9      Measure annually the shares of the City's total Carbon Footprint resulting from energy use in the built environment, transportation, and waste management.
- Action E-1.10     Partner with the public, private organizations, and non-profit agencies to develop policies that require existing residents and businesses to undertake building and appliance energy saving retrofit improvements.

### **Renewable Energy**

- Goal E-2**      Receive 100% of electrical power from clean renewable sources (e.g., solar, wind, hydrogen) by 2022 and to the greatest degree feasible increase generation of clean, renewable energy within the City to meet the City's energy consumption needs.

### **E-2 Renewable Energy Policies**

- Policy E-2.1      Remove demand-side barriers to adoption of a diverse array of renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies. Demand-side barriers include
- Cost
  - Difficulty getting small-scale products to market
  - Workforce availability
  - Lack of public awareness about the need for and availability of such products and technologies
  - State and Federal policies not supporting a diverse array of technologies
- Policy E-2.2      Lead globally in adopting technologies that transform solid waste and biosolids (i.e., the solids that remain after wastewater treatment) into useable energy.
- Policy E-2.3      Support the installation of at least 100,000 solar roofs in San José by 2022 and at least 200,000 solar roofs by 2040.

## **Environmental Stewardship and Innovation**

**Goal E-3** Lead globally in renewable energy efficiency research and development, innovation, and urban-scale renewable energy generation.

### **E-3 Energy Stewardship/Innovation Policies**

Policy E-3.1 Promote local innovation, research, development, and deployment of renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies.

Policy E-3.2 Showcase and apply innovative technologies within San Jose, including developments that achieve maximum energy efficiency or net zero energy, and renewable energy systems that generate energy equal to or greater than that consumed on site.

### **E-3 Energy Stewardship/Innovation Actions**

Action E-3.3 Utilize municipal facilities to showcase the application of outstanding, innovative, and locally developed energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies and practices, to demonstrate the effectiveness of these technologies and to highlight the City's energy leadership.

Action E-3.4 Host local competitions, high profile events, conferences, and symposia to promote energy efficiency and renewable energy.

Action E-3.5 Monitor building industry and workforce needs and provide robust professional training opportunities, partnering with relevant local workforce and development industry partners.

Action E-3.6 Train municipal code enforcement and development review staff in state-of-the-art Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) and insulation industry standards, best practices, and resources to ensure buildings are constructed in compliance with those industry standards and best practices.

## **Energy Security**

**Goal E-4** Provide access to clean, renewable, and reliable energy for all San José residents and businesses.

### **E-4 Energy Security Policies**

Policy E-4.1 Establish minimum requirements for energy efficiency measures and onsite renewable energy generation capacity on all new housing developments.

Policy E-4.2 Promote availability of a variety of tools and services for implementing energy conservation and renewable energy generation, including financing districts, energy auditing, and energy efficiency retrofit services to all residents and business owners.

Policy E-4.3 Promote neighborhood-based distributed clean/renewable energy generation to improve local energy security and to reduce the amount of energy wasted in transmitting electricity over long distances.

Policy E-4.4 Create partnerships and governance structures that improve the overall efficiency and reliability of energy production and supply.

**E-4 Energy Security Actions**

Action E-4.5 Partner with public, private, and non-profit agencies on public outreach and education on energy efficiency programs and services.